

¿Archaeoloco?

Newsletter of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology
2007 Volume 2 Number 1

Winter Weather at the Museum



The Museum experienced several days of snow this winter, turning the desert gardens and walking trails into a beautiful winter wonderland.

From the Director

October 2007 marks the 30th anniversary of the museum's opening. October is also Texas Archaeology Month. Additionally, the El Paso Archaeological Society will begin their 85th year in June. We will commemorate and celebrate these occasions with a series of public events listed below. I believe you will find these activities stimulating, educational and entertaining. To help cover the costs associated with this admissions free programming I have established an events account and have begun fund raising efforts with a goal of \$10,000.00 to be met by October. To date the El Paso Archaeological Society has donated \$1000.00, Arthur and Susan Peinado of San Diego have pledged \$1000.00, and Lora Jackson, Curator of Education, has applied to the Texas Historical Commission for a matching grant of \$1000.00. I ask you to consider making a tax deductible donation to the museum in amounts from \$100.00 to \$1000.00 to enhance public programs. These include: *Watercolor Paintings of Rock Art from Hueco Tanks* (29 September 2007 through 16 February 2008). This exhibit in the auditorium gallery will feature 22 framed and full scale copies of original watercolors by Forrest Kirkland. For the third time, the museum will host the Biennial Jornada Mogollon Conference with papers on local archaeology, 12-13 October. The conference features an opening presentation by Jane Holden Kelley, Professor Emeritus, Department of Archaeology, the University of Calgary and a later reception with a lifetime achievement award for her long and distinguished career in American archaeology. On 27 October the museum will present American Indian dancers from Jemez Pueblo at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The Archaeological Society will host other activities. Finally, we will celebrate *Día de los Muertos*, 29 October through 2 December, with a traditional altar, an exhibit, and the continuous showing of the film *Food for the Ancestors*. I encourage you to attend these events, participate, and support our efforts at your museum. See you there.

Dr. Marc Thompson

The El Paso Museum of Archaeology welcomes new members!

Alfred Kissack
Nancy Bain
Joe D. Stewart
Mark Sechrist
Nancy Kenmotsu
Annette Torres
Katrina Matrich
Sergio E. Carrasco, Jr.

And thank you to the
El Paso Archaeological Society
for their continued support.

What's New at the Museum?

***Agaves: Food, Fiber, and Drink* – 2 December 2006 through 14 April 2007, in the Auditorium Gallery**



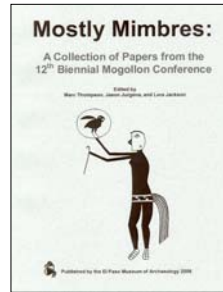
Discover the importance of Agaves to the cultures of the Americas.

***Renaissance in Pottery: Casas Grandes to Mata Ortiz* – 5 May through 15 September 2007, in the Auditorium Gallery**

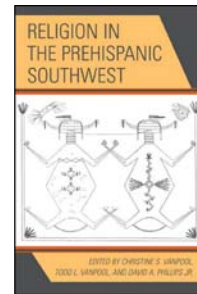


This exhibit explores the transformation of pottery making in northern Mexico, from its prehistoric roots in Casas Grandes to its modern expression in the art of Mata Ortiz. The exhibit, in conjunction with Casas Grandes and Mata Ortiz pottery exhibits with the Chamizal National Memorial and the Centennial Museum at the University of Texas at El Paso, opens with a reception and a pottery making demonstration by a potter from Mata Ortiz on Saturday at 2 p.m.

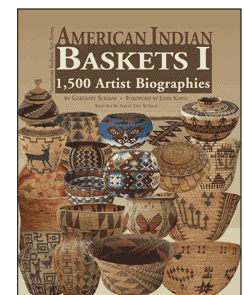
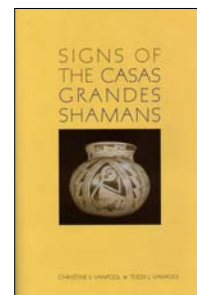
New Publications



As part of our ongoing archaeology publication series, the museum has recently published a new volume of archaeological research entitled *Mostly Mimbres: A Collection of Papers from the 12th Biennial Mogollon Conference*. These papers were originally presented in October of 2002 at 12th Biennial Mogollon Conference hosted by New Mexico State University. This volume is now for sale in the Museum Store. Museum members receive 20% off all purchases.



Dr. Thompson has articles appearing in two new publications. The first of these is Pre-Columbian Venus: Celestial Twin and Icon Duality in *Religion in the Prehispanic Southwest*, edited by C. S. VanPool, T. L. VanPool, and D. A. Philips, Jr. The other is Oñate in Context: Myths, the Man, Mestizaje, and Mexican Indians in *Chronicles of the Trail*, the journal of Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association.



Images of objects from the museum's collections appear in two new publications: *Signs of the Casas Grandes Shamans*, by C. S. VanPool and T. L. VanPool and *American Indian Baskets I: 1,500 Artist Biographies*, by Gregory Schaff.

People and Events

Agave Exhibit Opening

On Saturday, 2 December 2006 the Museum opened its new exhibit Agaves: Food, Fibers, and Drink, which will run through 14 April, 2007. The opening featured a presentation by Dr. Thompson on the importance of agave to the cultures of Mesoamerica and the Southwest, followed by a Tequila tasting, tapas buffet, and music and dance performances by CEIBA.



Music and dance performances by CEIBA at the reception.



Dr. Thompson talks about the importance of agaves.



Guests enjoying the buffet after the presentation.



Guests were invited to sample several types of tequila at the reception.



Guests taking advantage of the beautiful day.

Dr. William H. Walker Presentation

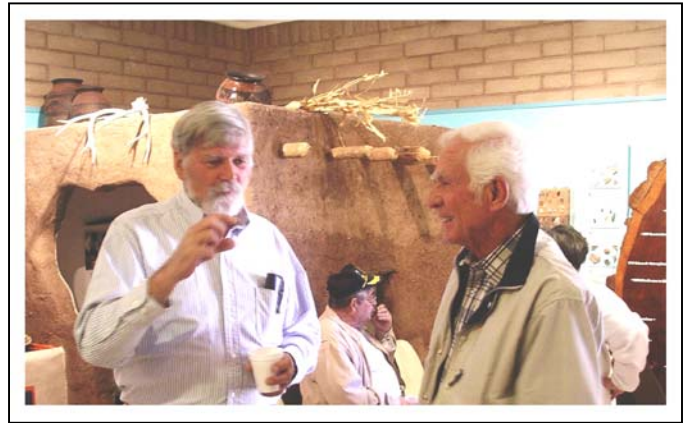
At 2 p.m. on Saturday, 10 February 2007, Dr. William Walker of New Mexico State University gave an illustrated presentation in the museum's Auditorium Gallery on his recent excavations of a pueblo near Deming, New Mexico. Traditionally seen as part of the Mimbres culture heartland, Dr. Walker showed this pueblo demonstrates that by A.D. 1300, a different culture, the Salado, occupied this region of southern New Mexico. Dr. Walker discussed the implication of this discovery and how it fits into the prehistory of the greater Southwest. A reception followed the presentation.



Carroll and Judy Welch discuss the presentation with Ben Brown.



Dr. Walker answering questions from the audience.



David Legare and Alan Phelps discussing ceramics during the reception.



Nancy Bain and John Kipp talk after the presentation.



Dr. Walker talks to a guest at the reception.

Museum Volunteers



Museum Docent Mike Iglar leading a tour of school children through the museum.

Museums run on the legs of their volunteers, and our wonderful volunteers here at the museum have certainly been invaluable the past few months. **LeClaire Shields**, **Deva Harper**, **Art Sleighel**, **Mike Iglar**, and **Robert Belles** have led tours through our galleries, teaching the children of our community about the archaeology and prehistory of the El Paso region. **Keith Rihn** continues to make plants grow in the desert. **Buddy York** is organizing the accession card catalog and working on condition reports for objects in the basketry collection. **Pam Kogler** is entering information into the object database, and researching and photographing ceramic artifacts for the database. **Rita Decker** is working on condition reports in the ceramic collection. **Charles West** has photographed basketry in the collection for the database. And a big thank you to **Collette Maes**, **Pam Kogler**, **Buddy York**, **Art Sleighel**, and **Lucas Jackson** who all made copies of the Teachers' Guide for the Educators' Evening for the City's museums. Finally, we also want to thank **Art Sleighel** and **Miranda Barton** for their help at the Educators' Evening.

In the Spotlight

Keith Rihn grew up on a wheat farm near Gurley, Nebraska, population 300. In 1957, on his way to California, he stopped in El Paso to visit his brother who worked at White Sands.



Keith Rhin
Volunteer of the Year.

His brother encouraged Keith to look for work in El Paso and that same year Keith became a fireman with the El Paso Fire Department. Two years later his brother left El Paso, but Keith stayed on with the Fire Department until 1986, when he retired as a District Chief.

While living in El Paso, Keith became an avid hiker in the Franklin Mountains and this spurred his interest in local plants. In 1984, Keith met at this museum with five others and became one of the founding members of the El Paso Native Plant Society. Keith has accumulated an admirable depth of knowledge concerning native plants and has attributed some of this to John Green and Winn Anderson who both provided tutelage and nurtured his interest. Keith also volunteers at the Senior Citizen's Garden at Stahala Drive and Hondo Pass.

In the early 1990s, Keith began volunteering on the grounds of the museum. He continues this generous service today: replanting salvaged cactus and other succulents, replacing and moving plant identification signs, clearing and maintaining the nature trails, planting and harvesting the Indian Garden, cleaning the pond, and countless other helpful activities.

We are proud to recognize Keith Rihn as the first **Volunteer of the Year** at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology.

Become a Member of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology

Membership Information

Your annual membership gift supports the Museum's exhibits, preserves its collections, funds special events, public programming, and educational programming. We are looking ahead to an exciting and event filled future at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology and hope that you will join us. We look forward to meeting you.

Membership Levels

Individual

Student - \$15
Senior - \$20
Individual - \$25
Military - \$20

Benefits for these levels are:

- One year's subscription to Museum's quarterly newsletter, *¿Archaeoloco?*
- Individual notice of exhibit openings, special events, and educational programs
- Invitation to annual Members reception
- Special Volunteer opportunities
- Your name listed in the Museum newsletter, *¿Archaeoloco?*
- 20% discount in the Museum Store

Family

Family - \$40
Military Family - \$35

Members at these levels receive all the General Membership benefits, *plus*:

- Benefits good for two adults and their children under 18 years of age
- 20% discount on all museum educational programs, such as the Archaeology Day Camp

Supporter's Circle

Folsom Level - \$100
Clovis Level - \$250
Keystone Level - \$500

Members at these levels receive all the preceding General Membership benefits, *plus*:

- Your name listed on the Museum Lobby Donor Wall
- Complimentary copy of one Museum publication
- Option to pay in two or four installments
- On request, special Museum tours arranged for you and your family members

Donor's Circle

Chupadero Black-on-white Level - \$1000
El Paso Polychrome Level - \$5000
Gila Polychrome Level - \$10,000
Mimbres Classic Black-on-white Level - \$50,000+

Members at these levels receive all the preceding benefits of General Membership and Supporters Circle Level, *plus*:

- On request, special Museum tours arranged for you and your family
- On request, a private "behind the scenes" tour of the museum led by the Director and/or Curators.

Corporate Circle

Chert Level - \$1000
Flint Level - \$5000
Chalcedony Level - \$10,000
Obsidian Level - \$50,000+

Members at these levels receive all the preceding benefits of General Membership and Supporters Circle Level, *plus*:

- On request, special Museum tours arranged for you and your employees
- On request, a private "behind the scenes" tour of the museum led by the Director and/or Curators
- Discounted rates on facilities rental for private functions



Membership Form

DETACH AND RETURN
El Paso Museum of Archaeology
4301 Transmountain Road
El Paso, TX 79924

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please Check One:

- ☐ Enclosed is my/our check
☐ Charge this membership to:
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard
☐ Discover

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Cardholder Signature _____

Please Check One:

Individual

- ☐ **Student** - \$15
☐ **Senior** - \$20
☐ **Individual** - \$25
☐ **Military Individual** - \$20

Family

- ☐ **Family** - \$40
☐ **Military Family** - \$35

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